NATURE TENNESSEE
Spring 2020 • nature.org/tennessee

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Director's Note

On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans peacefully organized to protest humanity's treatment of the environment and demand a new path forward for our planet. The first Earth Day, and the modern environmental movement, was born. We made some progress, but now we face the biggest challenge to the ecosystems that make our world habitable—climate change. Thanks to your support, we are doing our part here in Tennessee. But it's time for every citizen of the world to speak up in a united call for creative, ambitious and collective solutions that will secure a healthy planet for future generations. Please join us.

Terry Cook
State Director

WE'VE MOVED!

We're the same great team, conserving nature from a different home base. The Nature Conservancy's Tennessee office is now located at: 2 Maryland Way, Suite 150, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Kevin Hoyt from the University of Tennessee measures a tree. © The Nature Conservancy

Partnership In Action

Landmark agreement will benefit Tennessee forests

As 2019 concluded, The Nature Conservancy signed a historic agreement that established the University of Tennessee (UT) as the first academic institution to enroll in TNC's Working Woodlands Program and the first university forest to develop a registered carbon offset project. Working Woodlands has engaged landowners in managing their forestlands to benefit nature and local livelihoods since 2009.

The agreement includes seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification—the most rigorous certification available for conserving working forests—for 11,400 acres managed by UT's Institute of Agriculture (UTIA).

"UT's forests and surrounding lands represent some of the best-maintained and highest conservation priorities within Tennessee and the Southern Appalachians," says Trisha Johnson, TNC's director of forest conservation in Tennessee. The agreement will not affect public use of UT's forests or access to their Arboretum in Oak Ridge, both of which are valued by students, faculty and surrounding communities.

"All current forestry and wildlife management research will continue," says Kevin Hoyt, director of the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center. "Added revenue will ensure the center can provide space and resources for future efforts."

Hongwei Xin, dean for UT AgResearch, refers to the agreement as a "win-win partnership between the University and TNC that will prove beneficial for society," adding that "the Forest Resources Center will continue to provide one of the most comprehensive outdoor research laboratories in the nation while maintaining forest sustainability for future generations."

After completing forest inventories in 2020, the partners will seek (FSC) certification and develop the carbon project in 2021.

Support this work by visiting **nature.org/tngiving** today!

UT and TNC partners conduct a rapid carbon assessment. © The Nature Conservancy

Carbon Market

Maybe money does grow on trees

Thanks to science, The Nature Conservancy can quantify atmospheric carbon stored in trees as they grow. This comes in handy in an emerging carbon market where companies and other institutions are purchasing carbon credits from willing sellers to offset their own production of carbon dioxide emissions.

"Carbon markets represent a valuable incentive for sustaining and improving the health of forests."

—Trisha Johnson, TNC's director of forest conservation in Tennessee

In the partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the University of Tennessee (UT), the forest landowner—UT's Institute of Agriculture (UTIA)—will quantify the carbon stored in the university's forests. After the quantification is verified by a third-party, an equivalent number of carbon credits will become eligible for sale to willing buyers participating in that market.

"Carbon markets represent a valuable incentive for sustaining and improving the health of forests," says Trisha Johnson, TNC's director of forest conservation in Tennessee. "The partnership between TNC and UT provides an opportunity to test, improve and promote this approach that can benefit millions of acres of Tennessee's public and private forests."

Two types of carbon markets—compliance and voluntary—are enjoying substantial growth. Government regulatory agencies oversee compliance markets while voluntary markets are managed by independent organizations.

"Because of this project, UTIA will have more data on its forests than they have had in more than 20 years," adds Johnson. "This helps with gaining an understanding about their contribution to reducing carbon impacts in our atmosphere and creating opportunities for putting the forests to work in sequestering more carbon in the future."

Tennessee Staff Grows

© Courtesy Hope Woodhouse

The Nature Conservancy welcomes Hope Woodhouse as our new events and stewardship coordinator. Hope recently relocated to Nashville from Chapel Hill, North Carolina where she worked in fundraising, donor relations and communications at the University of North Carolina, the Medical Foundation of North Carolina and Duke Children's Hospital. Hope holds a B.A. in journalism and mass communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Staff Shout-Out

The Nature Conservancy's first ever Geospatial Conservation Annual Report and Map Book features work by our Tennessee cartographer, Joey Wisby, specifically revealing how large and connected landscapes like the Cumberland Forest/Ataya project have a significant conservation impact in the face of climate change. Throughout its 37 pages, the report illustrates ways that geospatial technology supports conservation and examines emerging opportunities where it can leverage efforts to protect, conserve and restore ecosystems around the globe. You can find the report at **nature.org/en-us/newsroom/geospatial-conservation/**.

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